

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00342 241756Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 /028 W

-----121275 241813Z /42

O 241715Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9147

C O N F I D E N T I A L N I M A E Y 3 4 2

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO AFRICA

1. I RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SCHEDULE A THREE TO FOUR HOUR LUNCHEON VISIT TO NIAMEY AFTER DEPARTING LAGOS.

2. NIGER IS MODERATE, SMALL AND ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN WORLD. IT IS SAHELIAN COUNTRY RAVAGED BY SEVEN-YEAR DROUGHT WHICH AFFLICTED SAHEL AND FROM WHICH NIGER IS RECOVERING BY VIRTUE OF ITS DETERMINATION AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF.

3. MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS, REMARKABLY FREE OF CORRUPTION AND FIERCELY DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT. IT IS ONE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA WHICH DELIBERATELY DE-EMPHASIZES MILITARY GROWTH BEYOND BASIC SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. GOVERNMENT IS SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND ADMITS THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHOSE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN REDUCED WITHIN PAST YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT IS FIRM BUT NOT REPRESSIVE. IT IS STABLE BUT NOT SMUG. IT IS INTERNATIONAL BUT SHUNS IDEOLOGY. IT IS PRAGMATIC. NIGER SHARES A BORDER AS WELL AS ETHNIC POPULATION WITH NIGERIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00342 241756Z

IT ALSO BORDERS CHAD, LIBYA, ALGERIA, MALI, UPPER VOLTA AND BENIN.

5. NIGER HAS INTENSE INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGER RIVER BASIN WHICH IT SHARES WITH MALI AND NIGERIA AMONG OTHERS. IT IS LANDLOCKED. IT PURSUES AN ACTIVE COURSE OF QUIET DIPLOMACY AND OFTEN TAKES INITIATIVE IN PURSUING

SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT PLAGUE THE REGION.

6. CHIEF OF STATE, LT. COL. SEYNI KOUNTCHE IS A NO-NONSENSE MILITARY OFFICER, DISCIPLINED AND ASCETIC. HE IS A LEADER WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE.

7. I BELIEVE THAT A VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD:

A. DEMONSTRATE TO WORLD AND TO AFRICA PARTICULARLY THAT UNITED STATES HAS AN AFRICAN POLICY WHICH INCLUDES SMALL AFRICAN STATES AND IS NOT PREDICATED SOLELY ON AN EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL.

B. RELIEVE NIGERIA OF THE UNCOMFORTABLE BURDEN OF EXCLUSIVE U.S. PATRONAGE OR THE APPEARANCE THEREOF.

C. DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT SAHEL WHERE U.S. HAS AND CONTINUES TO INVEST SO MUCH FOR RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT.

D. ACQUAINT U.S. LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC OPINION WITH A FRESH YOUNG PERSONALITY IN AFRICA--DYNAMIC, MARKEDLY SYMPATHETIC, AND TOTALLY AFRICAN--SEYNI KOUNTCHE.

E. BOLSTER A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS GENUINELY DEDICATED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 00342 241756Z

TO DEVELOPMENT OF ITS PEOPLE.

F. STRENGTHEN NIGER IN ITS RESISTANCE TO IDEOLOGICAL BUFFETINGS OF ITS RADICAL NORTHERN NEIGHBORS.

G. SIGNAL FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES THAT THEY HAVE EQUAL PLACE IN OUR AFRICAN POLICY.

H. COUNTER AFRICAN CRITICISM OF US FOR ITS ROLE IN RECENT CONTEST BETWEEN NIGER AND NIGERIA FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT.

I. SERVE U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THAT IT WILL TEND TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY POSSESSED OF THE FOURTH LARGEST URANIUM RESERVE IN THE WORLD AS WELL AS COAL AND IRON AND POSSIBLE LARGE OIL RESERVES.

J. INASMUCH AS NIGER IS ONE OF POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND HAS NEVER LOOMED LARGE IN SCALE OF U.S. POLITICAL INITIATIVES OR GLOBAL CONCERNS, SUCH A VISIT WOULD CONSTITUTE A PROFOUND POLITICAL STATEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VISIT DOES NOT CARRY THE RISK OF INVOKING JEALOUS

COMPARISONS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED WITH A VISIT TO MORE PROMINENT STATES SUCH AS IVORY COAST OR SENEGAL. ON THE CONTRARY, THE VISIT WOULD BE VIEWED AS AN EXPRESSION OF CREATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INITIATIVES IN AFRICA.

7. I RECOMMEND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH CHIEF OF STATE LT. COL. SEYNI KOUNTCHE TO DETERMINE HIS INTEREST SHOULD PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE PERMIT. I RECOMMEND THAT THE INITIAL APPROACH BE PRESENTED ON A TENTATIVE PLAN BASIS BUT WITH A FIRM COMMITMENT OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NIAMEY 00342 241756Z

8. FINALLY, THE RISKS ARE SMALL AND THE POTENTIAL GAIN ENORMOUS. IT WILL PROVIDE INSTANT RECOGNITION OF THE U.S.'S NEW POLICY INITIATIVES IN AFRICA. THIS RECOGNITION WOULD BE OF INESTIMABLE VALUE TO U.S. LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM INTERESTS IN AFRICA AND THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD. JAMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NIAEMEY00342  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780035-0887  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NIAEMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780129/aaaaaygn.tel  
**Line Count:** 141  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 28e5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3723565  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, NG, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/28e5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014